

STATEMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Lora Ilieva Spiridonova, PhD,
member of the scientific jury regarding competition for appointment to
academic position “Assoc. Professor” of professional category 1.2. Pedagogy
(Preschool Pedagogy – pedagogy of child-environment interaction), announced
in National Gazette, issue 22 dated 16 March 2021.

Candidate who has submitted documents for participation in the competition:
Chief Assistant Magdalena Dimitrova Gyurova-Stoyanova, PhD

In the competition for associate professor, announced in National Gazette, issue 22
dated 16 March 2021 for the needs of Faculty of Sciences, Education and Arts, Chief Assistant
Magdalena Gyurova-Stoyanova is the only candidate.

Education and professional realization of the candidate.

Dr. Magdalena Gyurova-Stoyanova graduated from the Bachelor's Degree in 2002 at
the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts at the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”
in specialty Pre-school and Primary School Pedagogy. In 2004 she acquired a Master's degree
in the same specialty and in 2016 - the educational and scientific degree of Doctor in
Professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool pedagogy).

The professional realization of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Gyurova-Stoyanova started
in 2002 as a primary school teacher at “Bulgarsko shkolo” school.

Her academic career began in 2005 as an Assistant Professor at Department of Teaching
Methodology, Department of Information and Teacher Training at Sofia University “St.
Kliment Ohridski”. Since 2010 she had been Assistant Professor in Pedagogy of child-
environment interaction at FESA, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and since 2018 she
has been Chief Assistant Professor at the same faculty.

Conclusion. Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Magdalena Gyurova-Stoyanova has a thorough
academic experience and a consistent academic career. She has been a lecturer at Sofia
University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for more than fifteen years and implements an effective
educational process focused on the specifics of the child-environment interaction.

Publication activity of the candidate.

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Magdalena Gyurova-Stoyanova participates in the competition for Associate Professor with 12 publications - 3 monographs, 2 chapters published in collective monographs, 6 articles and reports and 1 study in Annual of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, FESA.

The main habilitation work with which Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Gyurova-Stoyanova participates in the competition for Associate Professor is “Education in sustainable development and interaction “child-environment” published 2020. The work is relevant in terms of the importance of sustainable development, defined in the global framework for sustainable development and the need for pedagogical technologies for education in sustainable development in preschool age. The paper presents a developed and applied innovative model for education in sustainable development on the basis of a proven link between education in sustainable development and environmental education in the context of the child-environment interaction. Key content dimensions for exploring the natural world have been structured, the teacher's orientation towards an innovative model in theoretical and practical plan has been studied and good practices for the realization of the model for education in sustainable development as an aspect of the child-environment interaction have been proposed.

In the monograph “Nature in Preschool Education - Innovation and Reflection”, published in 2021, key guidelines for innovations in pre-school education are considered when involving teachers in innovative educational initiatives for nature and climate protection. The work contains consistently systematized studies of teachers' attitudes towards innovation and its perception as a priority of continuing education and research. Conclusions about the content and organization of the innovations in preschool education are systematized by interpreting the sustainable attitude towards nature and climate change from an educational and cultural perspective and their application in the practice of preschool education. The parameters of a model for pedagogical innovation and reflection related to the natural environment in the professional training of teachers are presented.

The monograph “Mastering key competencies in world orientation”, published in 2019, complements and enriches the PhD thesis of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Gyurova-Stoyanova in the direction of the project-thematic and the integrated systematization of experience interpreted as a prerequisite for the unity of ecological, health and social culture in childhood.

Parameters of a theoretical-experimental model of contradictions and opposites in preschool education are presented, which positive impact on the “picture of the world” as a cognitive basis for integrated acquisition of experience in preschool age is well established.

In the published chapters of collective monographs the improvement of the key competencies through integrated thematic content and project-oriented learning in contradictory situations is analyzed and a conceptual framework for creating a theoretical-experimental model for project-oriented use of environmentally friendly competencies in preschool age is presented.

The articles and the reports pay attention to the approaches, the goals and the content characteristics of education in sustainable development in preschool age; the importance of teachers' competencies for the integrated structuring of thematic content; the validation of model technologies for additional activities in the kindergarten; the parameters of the interactive technological model, based on contradictions and opposites and aimed at improving the key competencies in childhood.

The study in Annual of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, FESA, presents the results of a survey of the opinion of teachers and students regarding the inclusion of the thematic content for sustainable behaviour in preschool education. The basic principles, strategies, dimensions and technologies of education in sustainable development are systematized.

Conclusion. In structural terms, the candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Magdalena Gyurova-Stoyanova meets the minimum national requirements under Art. 26 of the Law on the Academic Staff Development in Republic of Bulgaria for scientific field 1. Pedagogical sciences for holding the academic position of associate professor. In terms of content, her publications are on the topic of the competition.

Cited in publications by other authors.

The reference to the competition contains 21 citations of the publications of the candidate for Associate Professor in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review and unreferenced journals with scientific review.

Conclusion. Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Magdalena Gyurova-Stoyanova and her publications are recognizable in the scientific community.

Scientific contributions of the candidate.

I accept the contributions to science and practice formulated by the candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Magdalena Gyurova-Stoyanova as achieved with a focus on:

- the analysis and the systematization of classical and modern concepts and research and the explanation of the connection between sustainable development and environmental education in theoretical and conceptual terms;
- the development and the application in practice of three experimental models for environmental education and teacher training in scientific and experimental terms (model for pedagogical innovation and reflection, related to the natural environment in the professional training of teachers; model for education in sustainable development as an aspect of the interaction child-environment in preschool age and theoretical-experimental model of contradictions and opposites in preschool education);
- the system of empirical research, organized in three directions – the professional competence of the teacher in the interaction child-environment and related innovations; the profile of the institutional play-educational space as an ecological environment and the ecological parameters of social and scientific competences of children in their orientation in the world in the context of sustainable development in experimental-empirical terms;
- the enhancement of the curriculum of compulsory and elective courses for pedagogical specialists' training in the direction of education in sustainable development and environmental education and the application of new models for interaction child-environment in educational institutions in experimental-applied terms.

Conclusion. The candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Magdalena Gyurova-Stoyanova has contributions in scientific and practical terms regarding the pedagogical dimensions of the interaction child-environment, education in sustainable development and environmental education.

Teaching experience of the candidate.

The candidate for associate professor Magdalena Gyurova-Stoyanova leads lecture courses, seminars and practical exercises in Pedagogy of child-environment interaction, Techniques for children's creativity in kindergarten – science, Preschool pedagogy, Educational technologies, Animation and design for children in Bachelor's degree and in

master's programs at FESA. She supervises the internship in the Bachelor's degree and in the compulsory disciplines Teacher training, Current pedagogical practice and Internship pedagogical practice in the master's programs Preschool pedagogy (for graduates of pedagogical specialties) and Preschool pedagogy (for graduates of pedagogical specialties and specialties with teaching qualifications). She is the head of the master's program Preschool pedagogy (for graduates of pedagogical specialties and specialties with teaching qualifications). Dr. Magdalena Gyurova_Stoyanova is a lecturer in courses for postgraduate qualification of pedagogical specialists trained at FESA, as well a researcher in a number of projects.

Conclusion. Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Magdalena Gyurova-Stoyanova has demonstrated professionalism and responsibility as a long-time lecturer in the system of higher education, implementing an effective educational process for the training and the career development of teachers.

Conclusion

Based on the conclusions made on each of the criteria for the evaluation, I give my positive assessment of the research, publication and teaching activities of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Magdalena Gyurova-Stoyanova and I will vote to awarding her the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2 Pedagogy (Preschool pedagogy - pedagogy of the child-environment interaction).

Data: 05 June 2021

Member of the Scientific Jury:

(Assoc. Prof. Lora Spiridonova)